

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 872

H.P. 621

House of Representatives, March 7, 2017

An Act To Establish Requirements Related to the Practice of Dry Needling

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and
Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, BROOKS of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland,
GOLDEN of Lewiston, SIROCKI of Scarborough, Senators: CARSON of Cumberland,
JACKSON of Aroostook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3111, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

3 **2-A. Dry needling.** "Dry needling" means the use of solid filiform needles or
4 hypodermic needles inserted through the skin and into underlying tissues for the
5 management of neuromuscular pain and movement impairments.

6 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §3111-B** is enacted to read:

7 **§3111-B. Authority for dry needling**

8 A licensed physical therapist may use dry needling in accordance with rules adopted
9 by the board. The board shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to
10 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, governing the use of dry needling by physical
11 therapists. The rules must set forth the requirements for authority for dry needling, which
12 must include, but are not limited to, a doctoral degree in physical therapy conferred by an
13 accredited institution of higher education; a minimum of 120 classroom hours of
14 education in dry needling theory and techniques and 80 hours of clinical instruction in dry
15 needling; instruction in exposure control for blood-borne pathogens; and registration as a
16 biomedical waste generator pursuant to Title 38, section 1319-O, subsection 3.
17 Notwithstanding the authority provided by this section, a physical therapist may not
18 profess to be practicing acupuncture unless licensed as an acupuncturist in accordance
19 with chapter 113-B, subchapter 2.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill amends the laws governing the licensing of physical therapists to allow
22 licensed physical therapists to use dry needling in accordance with rules adopted by the
23 Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy. The bill requires the board to adopt rules
24 governing the use of dry needling by physical therapists.